

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 OC-05 CCO-00 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /053 R

66608
DRAFTED BY: PM/ISO: MWHEELER-OSD/ISA: CDR GRUNAWALT:
ME
APPROVED BY: PM/ISO: MRDWORKEN
EUR/NE: MR. WORRELL
L/PM: MR MICHEL

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R 141824Z JUL 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO SECDEF
CNO
CINCLANT
DIRNSA/CSS
COMNAVTELWASHDC
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CINCEUR
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S E C R E T STATE 165036

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, ETEL, UK
SUBJECT: REALIGNMENT OF NAVAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
(NTS)

REFS: (A) LONDON 5369
(B) STATE 77246

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING REFERENCED IN STATE 77246 NOW
COMPLETE. NAVY PROPOSES TO RELOCATE ALL COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGEMENT, SUPPORT, AND OPERATIONS FROM NAVCOMMSTA
LONDONDERRY TO NAVAL RADIO STATION, THURSO, SCOTLAND,
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WHICH WOULD THEN BE KNOWN AS NAVCOMMSTA UK. TARGET DATE

FOR THE ACTIVATION OF NAVCOMMSTA UK IS JULY 1977.

2. THE PROPOSAL IS BASED ON SURVEY CONFIRMING THAT THURSO PROVIDES MOST ECONOMICAL SITE WITH MOST EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING BUILDINGS TO ACCOMMODATE RELOCATED FUNCTIONS. THE PRESENT MESS HALL CAN HANDLE THE PLANNED EXPANSION AND SOME HOUSING IS AVAILABLE ON BASE FOR MARRIED AND UNMARRIED PERSONNEL. THIS RELOCATION PLAN OFFERS SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES THROUGH COLLOCATION OF COMMUNICATIONS STATIONS FUNCTIONS WITH A TRANSMITTER SITE (FORSS) WHICH IS LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY WITH A RECEIVER SITE (WEST MURKLE). THE FOLLOWING BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL A.

3. IN NORTHERN IRELAND, MANPOWER WOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE PRESENT LEVEL OF 18 OFFICERS, 280 ENLISTED AND 107 LOCAL NATIONALS TO ZERO BY DECEMBER 1977. ALL LAND UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF NAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT. CLOSURE WOULD FOLLOW ACTIVATION OF NAVCOMMSTA UK BY APPROXIMATELY THREE TO SIX MONTHS.

4. NEW CONSTRUCTION IN SCOTLAND WOULD INCLUDE A FORTY-FOOT PARABOLIC ANTENNA PROTECTED BY A DOME AND HOUSING FOR ASSOCIATED SATELLITE EARTH TERMINAL EQUIPMENT ON THE EXISTING RECEIVER SITE AT WEST MURKLE, SOME ADDITIONAL ANTENNAS AT THE EXISTING ANTENNA FIELDS, AND ADDITIONAL HOUSING FOR PERSONNEL IN THE EVENT THAT ADEQUATE PRIVATE RENTAL IS NOT AVAILABLE. MANPOWER WOULD BE INCREASED AT THURSO BY ABOUT 3 OFFICERS, 119 ENLISTED MEN AND 4 LOCAL NATIONAL CIVILIANS. THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR HOUSING IN THE THURSO AREA WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 76 UNITS, INCLUDING A MIX OF APARTMENTS, PRIVATE ROOMS, AND HOUSES.

5. REQUEST YOU OBTAIN HMG APPROVAL FOR THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. EVEN THOUGH THE PLANNED CONSOLIDATION WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL TWO YEARS FROM NOW, SUCH APPROVAL WOULD PERMIT TIMELY NOTIFICATION OF THE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AFFECTED AND FACILITATE AN ORDERLY TRANSITION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, NAVAL FORCES, MILITARY BASES, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE165036
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OSD/ISA: CDR GRUNAWALT:
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750243-0450
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750758/aaaabzvk.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 5369
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REALIGNMENT OF NAVAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (NTS)
TAGS: MILI, ETEL, MARR, UK
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006